

the end of their social ambition ; to talk about others is at once their recreation and their occupation.



The Increase of Homicide

The clergymen of Charlotte, N. C., and the surrounding country took a step on a recent Sunday that may well serve as an example to clergymen in other districts where lynchings occur. As a result of the local discussion of the appalling extent of this form of lawlessness, they devoted their sermons to a denunciation of it. It would doubtless be well to give pulpit attention to the still more appalling prevalence of homicide in general throughout the whole country. The statistics of crime published by the Chicago "Tribune" every year, and the recent lecture of Dr. Andrew D. White, ex-Minister to Berlin and St. Petersburg, on the increase of murder, make it imperative that public sentiment should be awakened on the subject. Both of these authorities place the number of murders in the United States in 1895 at 10,500. The increase during the past seven years has been so great as to be almost incredible, the number in 1889 being 3,567. The total number during this period is 47,469, which is an increase from 58 to 155 in the million of population.

Taking these figures as a basis of a prophecy, Dr. White thus pictures the fate that awaits thousands of Americans the coming year: "To-day, this 10th of April, 1896, I announce to you that there are doomed to death in the United States, in the year which begins this day, over 10,000 persons, who will be executed murderously, cruelly, without opportunity to take leave of those they love, without opportunity to make provision for those depending upon them; and all of this multitude of persons, who have committed no crime, will be put to death without the slightest regard for the fearful distress and sorrow and, in many cases, beggary of their families. Fully two-thirds of these murders will be due to this easy-going, maudlin sentiment in the community at large, miscalled mercy, but really most fearful cruelty."

But, shocking as this presentation is, and adequate as it should be to evoke the most powerful sentiment against this prevalence of the spirit of murder, there are other figures that show with the same impressiveness the need of such sentiment. They relate to the inadequate punishment of homicides and the abnormal exercise of "executive clemency." While murders have shockingly increased, the number of legal executions has steadily diminished. In 1890 one murderer in forty-five was legally executed; in 1895, only one in seventy-four. At the same time there has been an increase of illegal executions, that is to say lynchings, which numbered 171 in 1895 against 132 legal ones. The aversion to capital punishment does not explain the immunity of homicides from all punishment. Of the 42,000 homicides that have escaped legal and illegal execution during the past six years, only 7,351 are in prison. The rest are at large, ready to repeat their crimes. Is it any wonder that some cynical judge once exclaimed that "the taking of life for the highest crime after due process of law seems to be the only way of taking life to which the average American has any objection"!

Even when murderers escape from the gallows to imprisonment for terms ranging from life to a few years, society has no assurance that they will be called upon to suffer the milder penalty pronounced against them. Owing to the lack of a powerful public opinion against the practice, Governors are too prone to accede to the request of the multitude of petitioners that any criminal, however odious, appears to be able to get presented in his

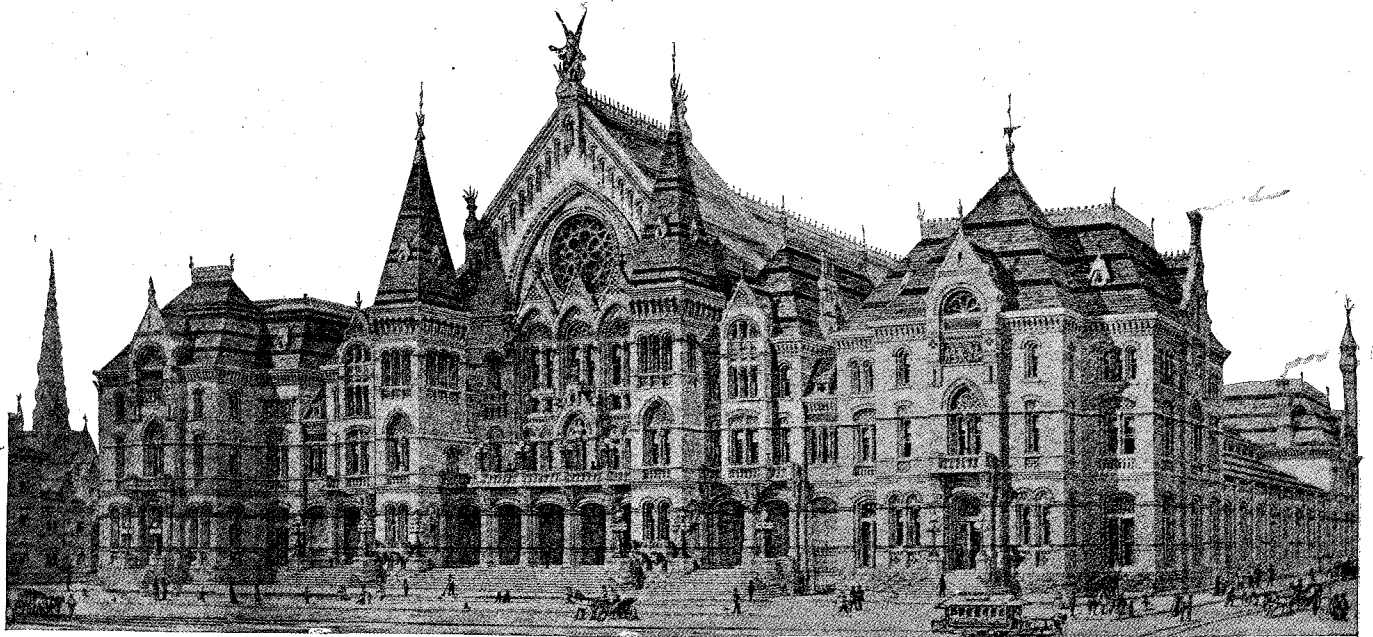
behalf. Dr. White mentions the case of Governor Taylor, of Tennessee, who went out of office in 1892. One of his last acts was to pardon eighteen men, several of whom had committed willful and brutal murders. During the four years that he served as Governor he pardoned 801 men, the list of whose offenses "includes every crime in the calendar." But Southern Governors are not the only offenders. Dr. White cites acts of Governors of Illinois, Michigan, and New York. During the last month of Governor Hill's term of office he pardoned fifteen men from prison, and during the last day of his term, six, two of whom were murderers serving life sentences.

The creation of a proper public sentiment, a "deep, determined, fruitful indignation toward wrong and crime," such as President Woolsey sought to arouse in his sermon on "Righteous Anger," would produce the most beneficent results. In the first place, it would bring to an end that repulsive sympathy for murderers that takes the form of floral contributions to them and notes of maudlin sympathy. In the second place, it would make impossible the getting up of monster petitions like that in behalf of "Bat" Shea, which is said to have been signed by 25,000 persons. In the third place, the executive power would feel it incumbent upon it to exercise clemency very sparingly. In the fourth place, there would be a reform of judicial procedure that would make it impossible for men guilty of murder to escape upon technicalities. In the fifth place, the creation of a proper public sentiment would effect a general curbing of the homicidal instinct. And, finally, it would furnish a necessary basis for those preventive and reformatory measures which to be effective must always be founded on a righteous but not revengeful justice.



The Hem of the Garment

Very few readers of the New Testament probably ever stop to think how brief the biography of Christ is, and how much must have been omitted from the narrative. There must have been another history of the divine teacher, written, not by the hands of his disciples, but in the hearts of those whom he had cheered and helped and healed by the way. There must have been a beautiful unwritten gospel passed from mouth to mouth for many generations, the light of which faded very slowly as the night of barbarism and wandering came on. For a personality like Christ's, filled with divine compassion and love, must have poured itself out in a thousand unseen rivulets as well as in the great channels so definitely marked in the New Testament story. There must have been thousands to whom he spoke words which were not recorded; there must have been multitudes whose lives were renewed by his power of whom no mention is made. As this was true of the divinest personality known to men, so it is also true of every human personality. The most searching and influential power that issues from any human life is that of which the person himself is largely unconscious. It flows from him in every form of occupation, in every relationship, in rest or in work, in silence or in speech, at home or abroad. There are hosts of men and women who are healers and teachers and helpers almost without consciousness of the fact. Light shines from them and help flows from them at times when they are utterly unconscious that the hem of the garment is being touched. The real test of the possession of the highest power of character and the most perfect devotion to the noblest things in life is not the quality of the direct touch; it is the presence of the virtue even in the hem of the garment.



THE CINCINNATI MUSIC HALL

The Cincinnati Music Festivals

By H. E. Krehbiel



Theodore Thomas
Musical Director

things which force themselves upon the notice of a reviewer who chances to have another outlook than the merely local. But one who can stand the rebuffs with which all criticism that is not adulation is apt to be received when the people of Cincinnati put on their smart spring garments and surrender themselves to the enjoyments which their most cherished institution brings, can also see that when the balance is struck the credit side has so much the better of the debit that it is scarcely worth the while to store the faults up in one's memory. After all, the defects are only locally harmful, while the country at large has benefited wonderfully by the influence which has gone out from the festivals ever since they became established features of Cincinnati's life. That influence has been sound and wholesome and marvelously potent from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The May festivals began in 1873, and have been held every second year since, except when a year had to be added to the interregnum between the second and third festivals to allow time for the completion of the magnificent Music Hall, which is their proudest architectural monument. The stability exemplified in this record is one of the extraordinary phenomena connected with the Cincinnati festivals. The annual gatherings at Worcester, Mass., are older, but their genesis is very different, and their accomplishments, however praiseworthy in themselves, incomparably less significant.

The Worcester festivals grew out of the old New England musical conventions, which might be described without irreverence as musical "revivals." Professional teachers not being numerous, when one came to a town he held a

For twenty years the music festivals which are held biennially in Cincinnati under the direction of Mr. Theodore Thomas have been looked upon as the most notable musical affairs in the United States. There are respects in which their reputation is justified only in part by their achievements; and, unhappily, as the present writer can testify, these are the

"protracted meeting" with the choir singers of the vicinity, and finally united them all in a concert. Everything was amiable about these meetings so long as the peripatetic convention leader was intelligent and sincere, and it would be churlish to refuse recognition to the good which they accomplished; but they never could occupy the plane to which the Cincinnati festivals were lifted at the beginning, and on which they have remained ever since. In the Western city the highest possible results were striven for at the outset, as if the soil had been prepared by long and diligent cultivation on the most advanced lines. It was a union of German and American qualities in Theodore Thomas which was responsible for this, just as it has been a union of Mr. Thomas's devotion to a high ideal and the readiness of the people to advance his efforts that has made progress possible. Had Mr. Thomas been all German, he would in all likelihood have been impracticable in his first plans; had he been all American, he probably would have been satisfied with popular success, and so trimmed his sails to the shifting winds as to command that regardless of all else. He has not always produced results commensurate with the dignity and claims of the festival organization, but he has not yet lowered the standard set up at the beginning, and for that reason more than any other he has maintained the festivals as potent influences in American musical culture.

To appreciate how great the influence is which has gone out from these festivals one



Wm. H. Hobart
President Cincinnati Music Festival Association



Otto Singer
Assistant Conductor and Chorus-Master



Arthur Mees
Organist Music Festival